

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

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R 171010Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

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AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
APRIL 16, 1976:

Q. ANYTHING NEW ON LEBANON? ANY INDICATIONS, CONFIRMATIONS, FEELINGS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN, POSSIBILITY OR ACTUALLY BEEN, A SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENT FURTHER INTO LEBANON?

A. NO. WE ARE JUST WHERE WE WERE YESTERDAY. WE ARE WATCHING IT VERY CLOSELY, BUT I THINK THAT WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID TWO DAYS AGO, STILL OBTAINS TODAY.

Q. AS FAR AS THE TROOPS IN LEBANON?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE FIGHTING THERE? WHAT DOES THAT DO TO AMBASSADOR BROWN'S EFFORTS?

A. AMBASSADOR BROWN, AS YOU KNOW, IS NOT THERE ON AN

OFFICIAL MEDIATING MISSION. WE HAVE SAID THAT. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LEADERS OF THE LEBANESE
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PARTIES TO EMPHASIZE OUR GRAVE CONCERN OVER THIS NEW OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING WHICH, IF IT GOES ON, OBVIOUSLY CAN ONLY UPSET OR DISRUPT EFFORTS BEING MADE TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN LEBANON.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THAT IT IS INCUMBENT ON ALL PARTIES TO MAINTAIN THE CEASEFIRE. CHANCES OF WORKING OUT A COMPROMISE WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE

VARIOUS SIDES DEPEND ON THE CEASEFIRE BEING MAINTAINED.

Q. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT A REPORT THAT THE PLO
AND SYRIA HAVE AGREED ON A FOUR-POINT COMPROMISE PLAN?

A. I HAVE SEEN THOSE STORIES. I DO NOT REALLY HAVE ANY
COMMENT ON IT.

THERE IS A REPORT THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS, REJECTS
"AMERICAN SOLUTIONS AND PLANS IN LEBANON." AND I
WOULD ONLY SAY TO THAT, THAT I AM NOT SURE WHAT THAT
REFERS TO, SINCE WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR FROM THE
BEGINNING THAT THERE IS NO "AMERICAN PLAN" FOR LEBANON.

ROBINSON

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